

St. Dyfnog's Church, Newsletter.

July 2011

LLANRHACEDD.

From the Vicar

" When we get to heaven, there will be three surprises. - First we will be surprised by the people that we find there, many of whom we had not expected to see. The second surprise is that we will be surprised by the people who are absent - the ones we did expect to see but who are not there. The third surprise, of course, will be that we are there! " - C. S. Lewis

Later this month we celebrate the feast of St James, one of two brothers who were keen to organise some privileged seating arrangements alongside Jesus when he is in glory.

Jesus however reminds them that his kingdom is not about who wears the crown, but who bears the cross - he had already spoken about how he would be mocked, scourged and put to death yet these two disciples mention nothing of this, but want to " fast forward " the movie to sharing Jesus' power, when he comes in glory.

The message is clear - after the cross - then the crown.

Flower Festival - Childhood Memories 7th - 10th July

This week will involve some hard work to ensure the success and fruition of so much planning and preparation for our festival here in church, and we hope that those who visit will enjoy the wonderful displays in this sacred place, which is always so very special.

Please continue to advertise the days, and especially invite people along to our Festival Evening Prayer with Bishop Gregory on the Sunday evening at 6 pm, which will be followed with some refreshments.

N.B. No 11.15 Service on 10th July

Family Pilgrimage

Denbigh and Dyffryn Clwyd Deaneries are organising an all age family pilgrimage to St Asaph Cathedral on Sunday 17th July - starting from the Parish Church of Corpus Christi, Tremeirchion at 2 pm. Everyone is welcome, and we are invited to bring a picnic which can be eaten on arrival at the Dean's Library. The day will conclude with a service of Compline in the Cathedral at 5 pm.

Being there, to share the time together, is more important than how we get there!

Further details from Roger Mullock 01745 815117

Michael

Answers to Quiz

. 1. Llyn Tegid (Lake Bala) 2. the River Glaslyn. 3. the River Rheidol 4. Merioneth, Monmouthshire and Montgomeryshire. 5. three Breconshire, Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire. 6. Mawddach estuary 7. Caerwent 8. Cwmbran 9. Y Felinheli 10. Ogof Ffynnon Ddu – in Powys 11. fifteen 12. at Myrthyr Mawr in the Vale of Glamorgan. 13. Worm's Head 14. Ramsey Island 15. islands off Holyhead Bay, north-west Anglesey.

Chess --- Wanted!!

A local chess player seeks a fellow chess lover with a view to sharing an occasional chess contest! *Please contact Keith on 01745 890 520.*

Dates for Mothers' Union Members

Monday July 11th. 'Wave of Prayer' service in church from 11.00-11.30

Saturday July 23rd. At the Cathedral from 12.30 till the service at 4.30pm 'A World-Wide Day' activities of many kinds to illustrate the M.U. Involvement world-wide.

Up-date on St. Dyfnog's Well.

A short meeting was held in church during June to talk about the well, and try to find out what people would like done to ensure its safety, and continued availability. As anybody who has walked up there recently the deterioration over the past two winters is very noticeable. Roger and Philip have set things in motion by approaching various people, and Roger gave a brief resume of their findings. It would appear that the way forward is quite complicated, some of us hoped that the bare minimum could be done to prevent further deterioration, but still make it possible to visit the well and use the footpath. Others were of the opinion that grants would have to be applied for and a full scale operation put into motion. The well is a Grade 2 listed building, so we have to abide by their regulations. The main worry of the group wanting the minimum done, was that if we had to get involved with 'health and safety,' grants etc. that the whole thing would become sanitised and lose its feeling of calm and pilgrimage, which it has acquired over the centuries. If we are to go for the larger scheme who is prepared to head the group, do all the form filling etc. required for applying for grants? We would require a proper committee, a bank a/c etc. etc.. Having been asked by some of the people attending the meeting to find out exactly what our options are, I contacted Mr. Ebrill County Conservation Architect for his advice, he has already seen the location with Philip and is very enthusiastic about the area, offering as much help as he can give. Basically he said, we have to create a formal group, then having acquired some funding (he had various suggestions regarding this) a 'scoping study' would have to be carried out, at this stage it will be important to emphasise that we want to retain the atmosphere and proceed in a low key, sensitive way, remembering that it is a place of pilgrimage, and the area must be protected as such. It was proposed to have another meeting towards the end of July to see how we progress, when the date is decided it will be announced in church, and a notice placed in the Post Office and the notice board outside Anvil Pottery. If you are interested please come. This is an important part of your heritage, make your wishes known. **S.vdB.**

Thomas Pennant Society Spring Tour.

May20-22 2011 to Swansea.

Thirty seven members of the Society set off on a blustery May morning for the annual Spring Tour.

The first stop was at the historic town of Newtown with its associations with the famous Robert Owen.

Onwards then through the beautiful Welsh border country which was by this time sunlit and spectacular. Lots of signs objecting to windfarms and pylons were to be seen in this area. It already has its share of wind turbines topping the hills. Arriving in Swansea members were welcomed by Geff Towns in the Dylan Thomas Centre on the modernised waterfront. He is the owner of Dylan's bookshop and he is an authority of all aspects of Dylan Thomas, and his collection of Dylan Thomas memorabilia has resulted in an informative exhibition at the centre. The highlight of our visit to Swansea of course was the visit to St. Cwndonkin Drive. This of course was the childhood home and birthplace of the poet. Three years ago the house was opened. The dedication of the people who have searched antique shops and salerooms for the contemporary furniture of Dylan's time was amazing. We went, from room to room and the atmosphere of the house at that time was memorable. We finished our visit with a welcome cup of tea in the living room. What a wonderful occasion this turned out to be to see the views from the windows and think back to imagine Dylan Thomas writing his inspirational poetry and prose from this house.

After a lovely dinner in a comfortable Swansea hotel and a good night's rest members set off bright and early to St. David's to visit the cathedral, well hidden in its hollow to avoid any invasions from the Vikings in earlier times.

The Cathedral is beautiful and the ancient atmosphere surrounding the early tombs of knights, priests and princes is something to be remembered. St. David's shrine, again evoking spiritual feelings of history and the thoughts of dedication of the saints in the past.

We unfortunately didn't have a good view of the spectacular scenery of the Gower as we drove around this area renowned for its beauty, as mist and drizzle came down later that afternoon.

Dinner and a night's rest gave us an early start for the drive back to North Wales. Our first stop was at Trefecca College where we saw an interesting museum dedicated to the religious non-conformist Hywel Harris.

Onwards then to Ludlow where we had an opportunity to visit the Castle and the Parish Church of St. Lawrence with its associations of A.E. Houseman whose famous poem 'A Shropshire Lad' is well known by many.

Ludlow is a very pretty town and we had ample time to explore its narrow winding streets with its bustling market and attractive Tudor and Georgian architecture.

We owe much to the officers of the Society for organising such a splendid tour.

Pamela A. Roberts.

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Planet Earth – Its a mad mad World

God said: 'Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on Planet Earth? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and the stuff I started aeons ago? I had perfected, a perfect no-maintenance plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and song birds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now, but all I see are these green rectangles.'

St. Francis: 'It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.'

God: 'Grass? It's so boring, it's not colourful, it doesn't attract the birds and bees, only grubs and earth worms. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?'

St. Francis: 'Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilising grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.'

God: 'The spring rains and warm weather probably make the grass grow really fast. That must make them very happy.'

St. Francis: 'As soon as it grows they cut it, sometimes twice a week'

God: 'Do they bale it like hay?'

St. Francis: 'No, they pay to throw it away.'

God: 'Let me get this straight. They fertilise grass so it will grow and then, when it does grow, they cut it and pay to throw it away?'

St. Francis: 'Yes, Lord'

God: 'These Suburbanites must be relieved in the Summer, when we cut back on rain and turn up the heat.'

St. Francis: 'You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing, they drag out the hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to cut it and pay to get rid of it.'

God: 'What nonsense. At least they kept some trees. They grow leaves in the Spring to provide beauty and shade in the Summer. In the Autumn, they fall and make a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil'

St. Francis: 'You had better sit down Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a circle. As soon as the leaves fall they rake them up into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.'

God: 'No! What do they do to protect the soil, shrubs and trees in Winter?'

St. Francis: 'After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in the place of leaves.'

God: 'Where does this mulch come from?'

St. Francis: 'They cut down trees and grind them to make mulch'

God: 'Enough! I don't want to think about this any more. St Catherine, you're in charge of the arts, what film have you scheduled for us tonight?'

St. Catherine: 'It's a Mad Mad World, Lord, it's a story about.....'

God: 'Never mind I've seen it!'

submitted by Nerys Harries.

Church Bulletin Bloomers

These have all appeared in church magazines, so let us thank God for church ladies with typewriters.

Next weekend's Fasting and Prayer Conference in Whitby includes all meals.

Sunday morning sermon 'Jesus walks on water'

Sunday evening sermon 'Searching for Jesus.'

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled.

Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Vale of Clwyd Quiz - compiled by Dewi Roberts..

1. Where was the first Harvest Festival service in Britain held?
2. This man sailed with Captain Cook on his final voyage and witnessed his murder in Hawaii and later wrote a vivid account of this. Where did he see the light of day and what was his name?
3. In which village in the early twentieth century was a toy factory opened in order to provide work for unemployed men in the area?
4. Who composed the famous First World War song 'Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag' and where was he born?
5. What great English poet spent several years at St. Beuno's Jesuit College, near Tremeirchion?
6. Where did the popular TV star Doris Hare spend the remaining years of her life? She appeared in the TV comedy 'On the Buses'

A Summer Celebration in Words and Music

The title of the wonderful concert we were privileged to welcome to St. Dyfnog's Church on June 10th. If you missed it, you missed a rare treat, but don't worry, they have offered to come again, for their third visit!. The evening was a very varied programme of songs from the Chancel Singers, including songs from Africa and Hawaii, and four versions of the twenty third psalm. The repertoire of the Glan Domwy Recorder Group was huge, from early Elizabethan to modern works composed for recorders. Forget your school recorder playing, this is another league! Serious music, folk songs, madrigals etc. To the glee of the audience the compère recited an amusing poem, with several naughty words! Afterwards we enjoyed refreshing elderflower to drink, accompanied by an interesting selection of 'nibbles', produced by Jane and friends. If you missed this event, and there was room for more, you missed a rare treat, an interesting , enlightening evening.

S.vdB.

W.I. Monday June 13th.

On this lovely evening, five of us plus dog enjoyed a pleasant walk around Llwyn Mawr wood, it was an easy walk, all boggy areas bridged over, signs of Spring flowers everywhere must be spectacular when the bluebells are out.

Recipe for Flapjack – good stand by for picnics and coffee mornings

100 g. margarine
 100g. Soft brown sugar
 3 tablesp. Golden syrup

melt together

200g. Porridge oats
 2 grated apples
 75g. Dried fruit (cinnamon/caraway seeds etc. can be added)
 Mix all together, bake in lined tin for 20mins.
 Cool for 5 mins, mark into fingers, turn out when cool. Store in tin.

Noah - Just a fable?

Just recently, the old Testament lessons at Morning Prayer have told the story of Noah and the great flood. Is it just a fable or did something of that nature really happen?

Many other traditions had such stories and they are intelligible only on the supposition that some such event did actually occur.

Noah's world was the Euphrates valley. Bounded by the Mediterranean Sea on the north and Indian Ocean on the south. A tremendous rain storm and a cataclysmic subsidence of the region caused the water to pour over the land to a considerable depth.

In our day, global warming is causing the Polar ice cap to melt at quite an alarming rate. Eventually this will lead to more inundated land on many continents, a global problem. Scientists tell us that if the size of the earth expanded by a few miles (an infinitesimal amount) there would be too much heat and all living forms would perish. Is global warming to be the modern 'Noah'? **H.J.J.**

Sewing Group

The Sewing Group continue to meet on Friday afternoon at 2-00pm, a reminder is on the Notice Board outside church, also recorded here any alterations in the date/time. We continue to repair the old Frontal, delicate work, but interspersed with chat and tea!! We will be starting a new frontal in the near future, the material is to be Welsh tapestry, woven in Trefriw, onto which we propose to embroider a Celtic cross, this is being given in memory of Rita Rowland, also included in this project will be a fall for the lectern and the pulpit, in the same material. The group is ably led by Susanne, a fount of knowledge, who also supplies all materials needed, but please, we do need more needlewomen (or men!)

SvdB.

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adams ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said 'Johnny, what is the matter?'

Johnny replied, 'I have a pain in my side...I think I'm going to have a wife.'

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, 'What do you think about all this Satan stuff?'

The other boy replied, 'Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probable just your Dad.'

A police recruit was asked during the exam. "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?' He answered, 'Call for backup.'

A Sunday school teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied, 'They couldn't get a baby-sitter.'

Holy Wells of Denbighshire (Part 1)

We live in an area where so many are seeking spiritual consolation. It is hardly surprising, therefore that within the last three decades there seems to have been a renewed interest in holy wells. After all these sites had their source in the spiritual, and the well cult is part of the veneration of water that characterises many religious observances.

In ancient pre-Christian times wells, springs and rivers were worshipped as gods, or regarded as being habited by gods.

These ancient sites are frequently located in the middle of the countryside, although Holywell, of course, is a notable exception.

I have listed below at least a few of the ones within Denbighshire –

Ffynnon Gynhafal, near Llangynhafal, is situated within the yard of a farm and is a large rectangular structure cut into the hillside. It was particularly renowned in the cure of both rheumatism and warts. There is a poem by a fifteenth century bard asking Saint Gynhafal to heal his painful leg. We do not know whether his wish came true!

Ffynnon Fair – situated on the banks of the Elwy at Wigfair.

The water flows within the small well-chapel now in ruins. According to one source it had uses other than curative ones and clandestine marriages were celebrated there up to 1640.

It is beautifully situated but is, unfortunately, on private land.

To be continued.

Dewi Roberts.

Mothers' Union

For this June's outing, we decided to go and see the other Jesse Window in this area – that in Dyserth Church.

We were a mixed party, including our Church Treasurer, the P.C.C. Secretary and the Envelopes Secretary and it was they who asked many questions of the Dyserth Churchwarden who had been detailed to speak to us.

The window is smaller than ours, is a sea of gold with many small figures in it - but no Jesse!! They think the money to finish the bottom panels ran out before they could include Jesse.

They have a vast churchyard, costing them £300 a time to cut.

The ladies of the church run a bric a brac stall in the Waterfall car park in aid of Church funds (we had a fellow feeling for them)

The afternoon ended with high tea at the Table Table Restaurant in Rhuddlan.

Be Warned – if you ever mean to visit, the church is only open on Saturdays and Sundays when a church guide is present.

H.J.J.

This is a bricklayer's accident report, which was printed in the newsletter of the Australian equivalent of the Workers' Compensation board - said to be a true story or urban myth, either way very funny and well composed

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to your request for additional information in Block 3 of the accident report form. I put 'poor planning' as the cause of my accident. You asked for a fuller explanation and I trust the following details will be sufficient

I am a bricklayer by trade. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the roof of a new six-storey building. When I completed my work, I found that I had some bricks left over which, when weighed later were found to be slightly in excess of 500 lbs. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley, which was attached to the side of the building on the sixth floor.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the roof, swung the barrel out and loaded the bricks into it. Then I went down and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow dyfnogdescent of the bricks.

You will note in Block 11 of the accident report form that I weigh 135 lbs. Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope.

Needless to say, I proceeded at a rapid rate up the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel, which was now proceeding downward at an equally impressive speed. This explained the fractured skull, minor abrasions and the broken collar bone, as listed in section 3 of the accident report form. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

Fortunately by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope, in spite of beginning to experience pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of bricks hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel.

Now devoid of the weight of the bricks, that barrel weighed approximately 50 lbs. I refer you again to my weight. As you can imagine, I began a rapid descent, down the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, broken tooth and several lacerations of my legs and lower body. Here my luck began to change slightly. The encounter with the barrel seemed to slow me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell into the pile of bricks and fortunately only three vertebrae were cracked.

I am sorry to report, however, as I lay there on the pile of bricks, in pain, unable to move, I again lost my composure and presence of mind and let go of the rope and lay there watching the empty barrel begin its journey back down onto me.

This explains the two broken legs. I hope this answers your enquiry.

Many thanks to Mari at the Post Office for this incredible letter.

